The Neutron Sciences Directorate at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) operates two of the world’s most powerful sources of neutrons for research: the High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) and the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS). Neutrons have no electrical charge, which allows them to easily and safely pass through a sample, revealing information about the material’s structure and properties. Discoveries fueled by neutron research at ORNL help scientists answer big science questions and spur countless innovations such as stronger glass for mobile devices, drugs that more effectively treat diseases, more reliable aircraft and rocket engines, cars with better gas mileage, improved armor for the military, and batteries that are safer, charge faster, and last longer.

The Neutron Sciences Directorate offers diverse career opportunities with positions as scientists, engineers, technicians, human resource business partners, accountants, science writers, technical editors, and skilled craft workers, to name a few. ORNL's team of talented staff collaborate to help deliver scientific discoveries and technical breakthroughs needed to realize solutions in materials science, energy, biology, and more, providing economic benefit to the nation. Our wide range of partnerships with other U.S. Department of Energy laboratories and programs, universities, and industry allows us to pair our strengths with others for outstanding contributions to science.

Living and Working Here

Come work at ORNL and join world-class talent and access to unique facilities, laboratories, and equipment, all drawing thousands of visiting researchers each year. A vibrant and welcoming scientific community, ORNL embraces the pursuit of innovative ideas and invests in its people to ensure their success.

Located in East Tennessee, in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, ORNL's campus is just one hour away from the national park. Within a day’s drive of all major cities on the East Coast, ORNL provides the best of both worlds: proximity to the great outdoors and urban centers with diverse cultural attractions. The city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee has 150 miles of shoreline for water recreation, rowing, and boating; and nearby Knoxville, Tennessee is home to the thriving research campus of the University of Tennessee and a historic downtown known for its dining, theaters, shopping, and cultural and music festivals.

To learn more about Neutron Sciences Directorate jobs at ORNL, visit jobs.ornl.gov
To learn more about Neutron Sciences at ORNL, go to neutrons.ornl.gov
What Do ORNL Staff Have to Say about Working at a World-Class Laboratory?

Huibo Cao
Neutron Scattering Scientist, Neutron Sciences Directorate, ORNL

ORNL is a great place to launch your career and make scientific achievements. You will find great opportunities to work on frontier sciences with top research groups, as I have in my research on quantum and magnetic material/physics and as a point-of-contact for DEMAND, a single crystal neutron diffractometer (an instrument used for neutron scattering).

Christina Hoffman
Neutron Scattering Scientist, Neutron Sciences Directorate, ORNL

The lab is a learning environment that constantly stimulates creativity and, at the same time, preserves operational rigor. ORNL has amazing institutional knowledge that can be unlocked and accessed.

If you are thinking about working here, I would say just give it a try and ask a lot of questions. And join the Employee Resource Groups!

Stephanie Hembree
User Assistant, Neutron Sciences Directorate, ORNL

I have the privilege of meeting scientists from around the globe who visit our world-class facilities to conduct critical research and experimentation. From an operations perspective, I help ensure users arrive at the beamlines science-ready.

Not having a scientific background, it is very fulfilling knowing my operational contribution helps advance life-changing science. It’s meaningful and exciting.

Jon Leiner
Neutron Optics and Polarization Scientist, Neutron Sciences Directorate, ORNL

I enjoy being immersed within the expertise and resources here to develop and enhance new tools to look at the quantum aspects of materials.

ORNL has an atmosphere of excitement that comes from working on some of the biggest challenges in neutron science.